

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SS-20 EUR-25 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 JUSE-00 SEC-03 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV CS

SUBJECT: VESCO CASE: LEGAL CONSULTANT CASTILLO

REF: STATE 183266

1. FRANCISCO CASTILLO IS AGREEABLE TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 1 OR 2 FOR CONSULTATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 2, 3, 4 OR 5. HE WILL ARRANGE HIS OWN TICKETS PER REFTEL, ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS, BUT WILL NEED APPROPRIATE HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

2. CASTILLO'S COMMAND OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS PROBABLY GOOD ENOUGH FOR NORMAL, UNINVOLVED CONVERSATION, BUT HE WILL DEFINITELY NEED AN INTERPRETER FOR THE TECHNICAL LEGAL DISCUSSIONS. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY HOPES ARA/CEN DIRECTOR LAZAR AND/OR A REPRESENTATIVE FROM L WILL BE PRESENT DURING THE CONSULTATIONS.

3. CASTILLO SAID HIS FEE FOR THESE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE \$3,000.00, ANTICIPATING THAT SOME WRITTEN LEGAL WORK WOULD BE REQUIRED OF HIM. WHEN CHARGE AND POL OFFICER POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT WE THOUGHT THIS WAS A HIGH FEE AND OBSERVED THAT WE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE CONSULTATIONS WOULD REQUIRE A WRITTEN BRIEF OR RECOMMENDATIONS, HE SAID HE IS FLEXIBLE, BUT THOUGHT THAT THE
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FIGURE SHOULD NOT BE MUCH LOWER. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PROBABLY HAD SOME KIND OF A FEE SCHEDULE WHICH IT USED AS A STANDARD, AND HIS FEE MAY HAVE TO BE SOMEWHAT GUIDED BY THAT SCHEDULE.

4. CASTILLO WILL LEAVE FOR EUROPE ON SEPTEMBER 12 FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. AFTER THAT DATE HIS USEFULNESS TO US WILL COMPLETELY CEASE. HE IS CLEARLY THE BEST INFORMED LAWYER AVAILABLE TO US NOW AND WE ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT AND JUSTICE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS LAST OPPORTUNITY TO EMPLOY HIS CONSIDERABLE LEGAL SKILLS WHILE WE CAN. IF HIS REQUESTED FEE IS TOO HIGH PLEASE TELL US (A) EXACTLY WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF CASTILLO AND (B) WHAT WE CAN PAY. IT SHOULD BE REMARKED THAT IT IS NOT EASY FOR CASTILLO TO BREAK AWAY FROM HIS PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL COMMITMENTS SO SHORTLY BEFORE HIS MOVE.
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